

Jeff Davidson
SCR 9 Proponent Testimony
Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
February 5, 2020

Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the committee, my name is Jeff Davidson and I am the President of Healing Hearts of Central Ohio. Our support group of more than 300 individuals inspires, comforts, and supports heart patients through a variety of activities including hospital visitations and monthly educational meetings.

I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to support Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 9, creating the Cardiac Amyloidosis Awareness Day. Cardiac amyloidosis is a rare form of heart disease that impacts the tissues of the heart and other organs. Amyloidosis is life-threatening, especially to men and African Americans. In November 2019, more than 80 members of Healing Hearts gathered together to hear from Dr. Ajay Vallakati, a researcher and expert in amyloidosis who practices at The Ohio State University. We were pleased to be joined that evening as well by State Senator Hearcel Craig. Senator Craig shared with us the legislature's desire to help bring awareness to this disease in order to help remove roadblocks to patients' diagnosis and treatment.

With continued research, education, and public awareness we will be able to save the lives of more Ohioans. I would like to note that the day that was selected for SCR 9 was based on our event. We have done further research and found that there is an entire month dedicated to the issue; March has been selected and many states are passing similar resolutions.

The Amyloidosis Foundation since 2018 has been passing state resolutions to recognize Amyloidosis Awareness Month in Tennessee, Michigan, and Louisiana. Indiana passed a resolution in January 2019, followed by Florida. They have advocates working on similar legislation in the following states for 2020: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Our organization understands that Senator Craig will be working on an amendment to recognize the month of March.

Thank you for your consideration of SCR 9 and please know that the members of The Healing Hearts of Central Ohio will support your efforts. Please contact me with any questions you may have.